

## SUCCESS STORY

### AMORE: Lighting Homes and Hearts in Conflict-Affected Areas of Mindanao



Barangay Chairman Julpikar Ladjahali of Lagasan was visibly ecstatic when two solar-powered compact fluorescent lights lit up his humble house in July 2002. Normally, his seven kids would be at home by dusk because they were afraid of the dark. Now they stay up to study and spend leisure time in the well-lit barangay (community) hall. Chairman Ladjahali's household is just one of the three hundred homes and public facilities electrified by the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE), a public-private alliance between USAID, Mirant Philippines and Winrock International.

About 3,000 barangays in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao have yet to see electric lights in their homes. Their distance from the national grid makes it difficult and costly to electrify their areas -- much to their frustration. So when the AMORE partners installed solar energy systems in the first 10 barangays in Tawi-Tawi province, the residents were euphoric. USAID aims to electrify more than 160 barangays in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.

Through solar-powered battery charging stations and individual batteries for households and public facilities, residents are now saving 70% each month of what they used to spend on kerosene for light. An essential element of the AMORE alliance is building village-level institutions capable of operating and maintaining renewable energy systems. Many communities have invested their own funds to protect the solar-powered battery charging stations from theft and expand the number of street lights. Community members were thrilled to see their social halls lighted up for the first time.

One local official said, "Among the best things the AMORE Program did for us was they provided the light that brought us closer together." With energy comes income generation possibilities, and the women are now at the helm actively pursuing various enterprises, from mat making and sewing to food preparation.

Visit our website at:

[www.usaid-ph.gov](http://www.usaid-ph.gov)

**Keywords :** *renewable energy*



The AMORE Project is electrifying remote communities of conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, lighting homes and hearts, and providing communities with economic incentives to achieve peace. In this era of globalization and advanced technology, no one should be left in the dark.

For more information, please contact:

**Mr. Daniel Moore**  
Chief, Office of Energy and  
Environment  
Tel.: 552-9821  
Fax: 552-9997; 551-9297  
E-mail: [dmoore@usaid.gov](mailto:dmoore@usaid.gov)